

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A mixed animal feed comprising a conventional grass based feed admixed with at least one other animosity constituent, ~~the mixed animal feed being characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising up to 60% by weight of by-product grape seed optionally mixed with grape husks.
2. (Original) A mixed animal feed as claimed in claim 1 in which the conventional grass based feed includes lucerne hay.
3. (Currently amended) A mixed animal feed as claimed in ~~either one of claims claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1 in which the grape seed and, where present, grape husks, have been pre-treated with at least one tannin degrading bacteria.
4. (Original) A mixed animal feed as claimed in claim 3 in which the grape seed and, where present, grape husks, have been pre-treated with a combination of tannin degrading bacteria.
5. (Currently amended) A mixed animal feed as claimed in ~~either one of claims claim 3 or 4~~ claim 3 in which at least one of the bacteria is a tannin-hydrolysing lactic acid bacteria.
6. (Currently amended) A mixed animal feed as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 3 in which the bacteria includes one or more of Streptococcus bovis, Streptococcus caprinus and Streptococcus gallolyticus.
7. (Currently amended) A mixed animal feed as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~ claim 3 in which pre-treatment with bacteria was effected by suspending the grape seed and, where present, grape husks in a suspension that is inoculated with the bacteria prior to drying.

8. (Currently amended) A mixed animal feed as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the grape seeds and any grape husks admixed therewith have been dried, milled and pelleted for admixture with the conventional grass based feed.

9. (Original) An animal feed constituent characterised in that it comprises by-product grape seed optionally mixed with grape husks wherein the grape seeds and any husks mixed therewith have been treated with a tannin degrading bacteria.

10. (Currently amended) An animal feed constituent as claimed in claim 9 in which the tannin degrading bacteria is at least one ~~and typically a mixture of~~ tannin hydrolysing bacteria.

11. (Currently amended) An animal feed constituent as claimed in ~~either one of claims~~ claim 9 or 10 in which the by-product grape seed and any husks mixed therewith are milled and sized, typically to a size of about 1 mm in diameter prior to contacting with an aqueous culture of the relevant bacteria.

12. (Currently amended) An animal feed constituent as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 9 to 11 in which the constituent is in a pelletised form.